

Fall 2007 e-newsletter Subtidal Habitat Goals Project



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The project is an interagency partnership between the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California Coastal Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the San Francisco Estuary Project.

Welcome to the first e-newsletter for the San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project!

What is the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project?

The San Francisco Bay Subtidal Habitat Goals Project is a collaborative effort to establish a comprehensive and long-term management vision for research, restoration and management of the subtidal habitats of the San Francisco Bay. The Project is an interagency partnership between the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), the California Coastal Conservancy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the San Francisco Estuary Project.

What will be the outcomes of the project?

The primary product of the Subtidal Habitat Goals Project will be a document that provides recommendations and goals for research, restoration and management to improve the quality, quantity and species associated with subtidal habitats in San Francisco Bay.

Resource managers will be able to use this document to make informed decisions and researchers and restoration practitioners will be able to prioritize activities and pursue funding for subtidal projects.

The Subtidal Goals Project is an outgrowth of both the need for greater information to make sound management decisions, and the desire of diverse stakeholders to know where it is appropriate to locate potential projects, as well as to identify mitigation or restoration opportunities. The Subtidal Habitat Goals document will provide guidance to managers, scientists, restoration practitioners, commercial interests, and a multitude of user groups.

The Subtidal Habitat Goals document will not be a regulatory manual, but will provide information about what is known and not known about the Bay's subtidal habitats, the species that depend on them and the stresses on those species and habitats. In addition, it will provide goals for future research, identify areas for protection, additional management efforts, and restoration activities.

What will be the outcomes of the project? (Cont'd)

Anticipated products from the project include:

1. **A Report on the Subtidal Habitats of San Francisco Bay and Associated Biological Taxa.** Summarizing existing information on the historical and current state of San Francisco Bay subtidal habitats, including information regarding habitat distribution, abundance, and description of the plants, invertebrates, fish, birds and mammals associated with the subtidal habitats. *Available September 2007*
2. The **Subtidal Habitat Goals report** outlining recommendations and goals for research, restoration and management to improve subtidal habitats in San Francisco Bay. This report will be publicly accessible via website and hard copy.
3. **Website-accessible information** regarding subtidal habitats in San Francisco Bay. For example, the website may provide maps of habitat distribution and abundance, general areas and types of commercial and recreational use, locations of restoration activities and opportunities, and/or links to pertinent regulatory information.

Staff from each of the partner agencies are part of the Administrative Core Group (ACG).

What is the planning process?

The goals development process is based on a modified version of the Nature Conservancy's Conservation Action Planning methodology. The goals development process is designed to develop a set of scientifically based descriptions of subtidal habitats and their essential functions, and to describe stressors on each of the habitats, which then will form the foundation for development of goals for subtidal habitat research, restoration and management.

Staff from each of the partner agencies are part of an **Administrative Core Group (ACG)**, and have been directing the project development and provide ongoing management of the planning committees, described below.

Members of the Administrative Core Group include:

- Korie Schaeffer, NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division
- Natalie Cosentino-Manning, NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center
- Brenda Goeden, San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Caitlin Sweeney, San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Dan Robinson, San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Abe Doherty, California Coastal Conservancy
- Marcia Brockbank, San Francisco Estuary Project
- Rebecca Smyth, NOAA Coastal Services Center
- Natalie Badrei, NOAA Fisheries Restoration Center
- Christina Hoffman, NOAA Coastal Services Center



Map of Geographic Scope

In addition to the Administrative Core Group, there is an Executive Steering Committee, consisting of key managers from federal and state agencies that have management or regulatory authority regarding subtidal habitats in San Francisco Bay. The role of this group is to provide direction, commit resources, and provide support for the development of the Subtidal Goals Project.

How is the Public Involved?

All committee meetings are open to the public, and members of the public participate regularly. Notices for all committee meetings and all meeting summaries are posted to the Project website at www.bcdc.ca.gov, under "Special Programs."

*Members of the public
are encouraged to
attend and participate
in meetings.*

The intent of the Subtidal Goals Project is to derive project recommendations and develop subtidal habitat goals from identified experts on various topics related to subtidal habitats. However, the Steering Committee for the project, as well as the ACG, understand the critical value that expert and interested members of the public can provide for the development of subtidal habitat goals.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend and participate in the Steering Committee and Committee meetings, where they can provide direct input through dialogue with Committee members. In addition, time is reserved at each Committee meeting for public comments and questions. Further, the Project has hosted two public workshops, one at the start of the project in the summer of 2006 and one in September of 2007.

A summary of all written public comments received by the Administrative Core Group is posted on the project website.

Project Milestones to Date?

Science Committee

The Project's Science Committee has met several times since the summer of 2006. In that time they have developed extensive scientific and research information and subtidal habitat descriptions, which will form the foundation for the research goals, and provide the scientific foundation for the restoration and management goals.

Members of the Science Committee include:

- Sarah Allen, National Park Service
- Kathy Boyer, SFSU Romberg Tiburon Center
- Chris Brown, Smithsonian Institute
- Gary Greene, Moss Landing Marine Labs
- Kathy Hieb, California Department of Fish & Game
- George Isaac, California Department of Fish & Game
- Dale Robinson, SFSU Romberg Tiburon Center
- Dave Schoellhamer, US Geological Survey
- Bob Tasto, NOAA Fisheries
- Janet Thompson, US Geological Survey
- Susan Wainwright-De La Cruz, US Geological Survey



Project Milestones to Date?

The final goals document will be completed by the end of 2008.

Restoration Committee

The Restoration Committee has met twice. This committee is composed of scientists, resource managers, and representatives from community groups actively engaged in and knowledgeable about restoration efforts pertinent to subtidal habitats in San Francisco Bay.

Members of the Restoration Committee include:

- John Brosnan, Sonoma Land Trust
- Greg Green, Ducks Unlimited
- Ted Grosholz, UC Davis
- Stephanie Kiriakopoulos, SFSU Romberg Tiburon Center
- Marilyn Latta, Save SF Bay
- Jeremy Lowe, Phil Williams & Associates
- Jerry Schubel, Aquarium of the Pacific
- Stuart Siegel, Wetlands & Water Resources
- Laurie Sullivan, NOAA Ocean Service
- Drew Talley, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Bob Tasto, NOAA Fisheries
- Ron Thom, Battelle Marine Sciences Lab

Resource Management Committee

The Resource Management Committee has met twice. This committee is composed of staff from federal and state agencies that manage or regulate the use of subtidal resources in San Francisco Bay.

Committee members include:

- Peter Alexander, East Bay Regional Parks District
- Bill Brostoff, US Army Corps of Engineers, Planning Division
- Beth Christian, SF Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board
- Joseph Dillon, NOAA Fisheries
- Cassandra Enos, California Department of Water Resources
- Darren Fong, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
- Amy Hutzel, California Coastal Conservancy
- Jaime Kooser, San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Robert Lawrence, US Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Division
- Vivian Matuk, California Department of Boating & Waterways
- Steve McAdam, San Francisco Bay Conservation & Development Commission
- Donn Oetzel, California State Lands Commission
- Becky Ota, California Department of Fish & Game
- Brian Ross, Environmental Protection Agency
- Christy Smith, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- Bob Tasto, NOAA Fisheries

Calendar of Events

Science Committee

Date TBA (canceled due to oil spill)

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

BCDC

50 California Street, San Francisco

Contact: Brenda Goeden, brendag@bcdc.ca.gov

Resource Management Committee

Tuesday, November 27, 2007

10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

BCDC

50 California Street, San Francisco

Contact: Caitlin Sweeney, caitlins@bcdc.ca.gov

NOVEMBER 2007						
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Have any questions or comments about the project?

Please feel free to contact us:

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Natalie Badrei, NOAA, Natalie.badrei@noaa.gov